

WHEREAS, the month of October has is recognized as National Arts and Humanities Month by thousands of arts and cultural organizations, communities, and states across the nation as well as the White House and Congress for several years; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities affect every aspect of life in America today and enhance and enrich the lives of every American; and

WHEREAS, arts education research findings suggest that the arts can help close the achievement gap, improve the academic skills essential for reading and language development; build strong mathematical skills; advance the motivation to learn; and promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts industry nationally strengthens our economy by generating \$134 billion in economic activity annually and by supporting the full-time equivalent of 4.85 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria community has an abundance of cultural and artistic activities planned for the month of October, including special offerings such as the "Art on the Avenue" festival, a collaboration between Del Ray residents and the business community; the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's "Words of Wisdom, Words of Woe" concert; MetroStage's production of "Girl in the Goldfish Bowl"; Del Ray Artisans' "Bead It! 2" exhibit; and the Family Fall Festival sponsored by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts was instrumental in facilitating opportunities for artists during the Old Town Festival of the Arts through the Local Colors Show and performances, and also on display in the Vola Lawson Lobby of the Alexandria City Hall is the Local Colors Show; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Alex Awards, an annual awards program sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, will salute Alexandrians who have made a significant contribution to the cultural fabric of the Alexandria community, will be held on Friday, October 20, at the Dr. Oswald D. Durant Memorial Center, the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department's premier multi-cultural center for the performing and visual arts; and

WHEREAS, during the month of October a panel of community judges will review the nominations for a Poet Laureate for Alexandria, and will recommend an individual who will promote the appreciation of poetry, encourage creative writing and reading, and promote literacy through poetry; and

WHEREAS, a planning committee comprised of representatives from the Art League, the Del Ray Artisans, the Springwater Fiber Workshop, the Torpedo Factory Artists Association, and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts has collaborated to present the second "Art in City Hall" exhibition juried by Stephen Phillips, curator at The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., who viewed 213 works from local artists, selected 80 works for the show, and awarded three top honors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is working to encourage greater opportunities for cultural arts in the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of October as:

"NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria and formally invite and call upon Alexandria citizens to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in our City, and to encourage the greater participation of children especially in educational programs and activities in the arts and humanities and to celebrate the cultural riches our City has to offer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10th day of October 2006.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE **MAYOR**
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk